EXTRA

The York's New Times

"All the News We Cut to Fit"

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HACKMAN CUTS BOXCAR

Saws through 31–ton boxcar in only 1hr. 14min. 21.21sec.

INSIDE: Check the scoop on these stories and more …

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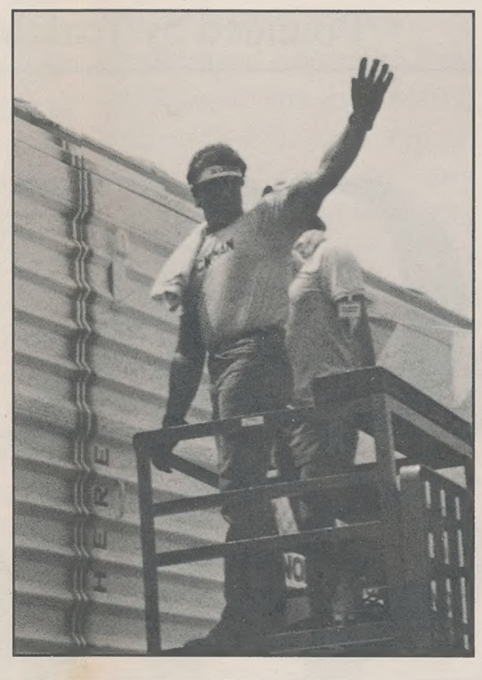
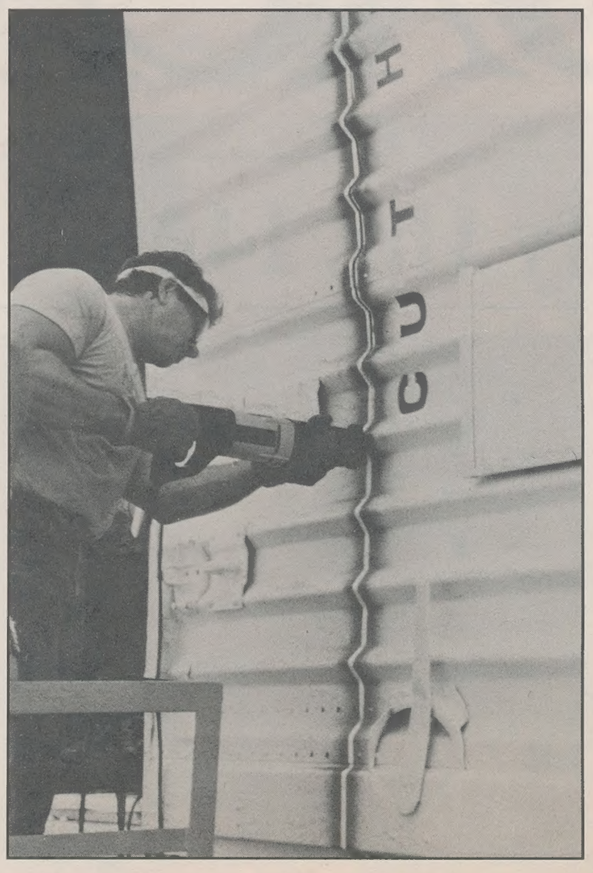
How it was done.

EASTHAMPTON, MA — You could have fried, and probably burnt an egg inside that sizzling hot boxcar on Saturday, July 11, 1987. This was the day for which Hackman, also known as Lee Breton, had trained long and hard. It was the day he would pit his own stamina and the sharpness and staying power of Lenox saw blades, against a tough 31-ton steel monster boxcar waiting for him at this deserted rail siding.



Was it hot? Easthampton weather reported an effective temperature (heat & humidity) of 105° F. The thermometer read an honest, searing 95° F outside – but who'd have the gumption to see how hot it was inside the boxcar? The day before, when Lenox employees made final preparation of this relic of railroading past, the thermometer inside the boxcar read 135° F! Could Hackman last? Could the blades last?

The task at hand facing Hackman was to single-handedly sever the boxcar into two pieces using Lenox saw blades and his own stubbornness, without squandering a split second of sawing time.



Although Lee Breton's job for today was hot stuff in more ways than one, he and his capable assistants were cool under the pressure as a strong-armed cherry picker hoisted them atop the boxcar. Up they went to the full nearly eleven foot height of the steely adversary ... as the shouts of what sounded like thousands of admiring fans cheered them on.

Making Every Second Count.

Hackman pushed the Lenox Vari-Bit® Drill Bit into the center of the roof to make a hole for the saw blade, and the cutting began. Ted Kmiecik, an auditor with Coopers & Lybrand stood by and officiated the Boxcar Cutting.

Using a Hackmaster® R 618 reciprocating blade, Lee cut across the roof to one side and then the other. He then changed blades to cut through the boxcar's tough roof corner reinforcements by using an 810R and a 110R reciprocating blade. As Lee would say later, these were the toughest parts.

Lee next ran the recip saw down one side—like cutting butter—using a 618R, and then down the other side, really flying now, especially through the doors. On the side beams, Hackman used a 110R, 614R and 610R. Hackman's own estimate of 2 hours seemed just about right at this point.

At last, toughest cutting of all, came the bottom of the boxcar. Every once in a while, he would look out at the crowd for his wife and kids. Hackman had been cutting for less than an hour, and at this point the heat seemed to be taking its toll. When somebody asked Lee, "Tired?" He answered, "Just a little, a little."

But Hackman kept right on cutting. During breaks, he'd smile to the crowd or wave to a familiar face. One time his five-year-old son, Michael (who was up front with three-year-old Kelly and their mother, Carol) shouted, "Go Daddy, go!" But Lee didn't hear him. So a good friend grabbed Michael and got him closer to Lee by putting him on his shoulders. This time "Go Daddy, go!" was answered with a broad smile and a wave — Lee kept sawing all the while.

The boxcar's wooden flooring was quick work for the Lenox 656R blade. But its bottom was supported by tough small beams running the length of the boxcar, plus a large, half inch thick center support that is 12 inch wide steel.

While planning his cutting tactics in advance, Hackman had figured that the center beam might take a 1/2 hour or more to get through. By using a combination of several different blades — from 110R to 614R to 610R — he was able to cut clean through it in only 15 minutes. Once the center beam was cut, the two smaller beams were severed in a hurry and the job was done — and the stopwatch froze at 1 hour and 14 minutes 21 and 21 one-hundredths seconds.

His five-year-old son shouted "Go, Daddy, Go!"

Lee had no doubts he could do it. He'd already cut the boxcar twice in his dreams. He did everything he could think of to prepare himself for the ordeal. And besides, as Lee said, "I've been with American Saw for 25 years, next month. So I know what they put into Lenox blades."

Hundreds Came to a Boxcar Cutting and Had a Picnic.

"Go Hackman ... Go Hackman," chanted the hundreds of well-wishers who came to see Hackman and his trusty Lenox saw blades conquer a boxcar.

Bright happy music screamed out from a disc jockey ... hamburgers, hot dogs and soda appeared and disappeared as if by magic ... a very funny clown amused kids of all ages by making balloons look like dogs, cats, even into hats that just delighted the scores of children that flocked around him all afternoon.

Cutting the Boxcar Was No Picnic.

But it sure was a media event...covered by two TV stations as well as newspaper and trade journal coverage.

Moreover, today's challenge loomed bigger and more important to Hackman than all of the past challenges he had faced. This contest would benefit the JIMMY FUND. American Saw had pledged a special contribution to the fund, in recognition of the outstanding participation by all of the policemen and townspeople of Easthampton who pitched in to make the Lenox Boxcar Cutting the spectacular success it was.

Where does it go from here?

All of the burly body builder's unbroken string of successes — cutting a car, a tanker, an airplane somehow seemed pale by comparison. This not only was the biggest cut of all but Hackman's toughest challenge, and there was a good cause in it. Is this the end of a long trip or only the beginning?

The journey to reach this rusty rail siding was a long and tough one. It began in February 1981, when Hackman cut clear through an American Motors Gremlin using just seven Hackmaster® hacksaw blades and taking only 26 minutes and 1 second to do it.

Next victory was in September 1984, when Hackman single-handedly devastated a 30 foot long, 21 foot circumference, 5,000-gallon oil tanker truck in 26 minutes 6 seconds, using only seven Lenox 6" Hackmaster® reciprocating saw blades! And then in November 1985, something even more spectacular. In just over 24 minutes, Hackman cut through a 116 foot long, 32 foot circumference, 73,000-pound cargo airplane with 6" to 12" Hackmaster® reciprocating saw blades.

Now after cutting a 31-ton boxcar in two in just 1 hour 14 minutes 21 seconds and 21 one-hundredths of a second, where do you go from here?

Washington Contractor wins vacation. Chooses Boston trip.

Left to right: York Mayo, Larry Kennedy, Chuck Young, Art Froembling, Carl Hartman, Lee Breton.

SEATTLE, WA — On July 22, York Mayo, Wholesale Trades Division Sales Manager, and Lee Breton (Hackman) visited Washington to participate in ceremonies recognizing the grand prize winner of the Lenox Boxcar Cutting.

Art Froembling, employee of J.R. Abbott Construction, won the grand prize by estimating the boxcar cutting time of 1 hour 14 minutes 21:03 seconds. Just 18/100th of a second short of the official time. His guess was just one of 60,000 entries received.

That's cutting it close. But Art doesn't cut it that close in choosing the tools Abbott Construction uses. According to Art, "We only use first class materials to get first class work. The one time we tried 'generic' tools, the men refused to use them."

"Anything less than first class tools just isn't acceptable. They don't have time to fool around with blades of lesser quality. Since then, I only order Lenox."

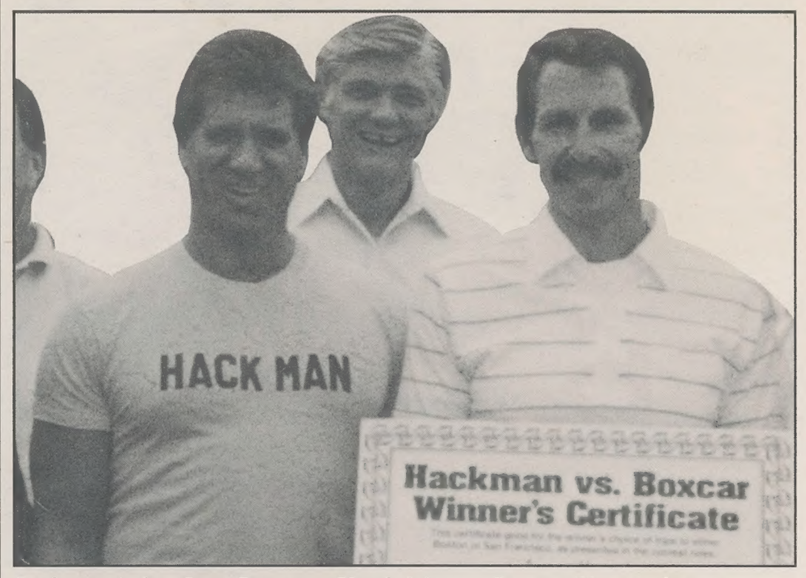
"Choosing Larry as my favorite counterperson (See story below) came naturally. He's the only one I work with. Larry's one of the most experienced and knowledgeable — and as I said we don't have time for anything less. You know commercial construction's booming here right now so we can't waste a minute on broken blades."

Art and his wife, Jolene, have never been to Boston. So they are very excited about making the trip probably early next year. It's going to be a wonderful relaxed vacation filled with some history along the Freedom Trail and plenty of seafood.

Art Froembling has been in the construction business since 1977. He began as a laborer with a precast concrete construction firm ... learned rigging and hand signals ... then became a carpenter with Abbott Construction.

Art and Jolene, and their four children, ages 15, 17, 19 and 21 reside in Renton, WA.

Wholesaler counter-person wins trip too.



Left to right: Lee Breton, York Mayo, Larry Kennedy.

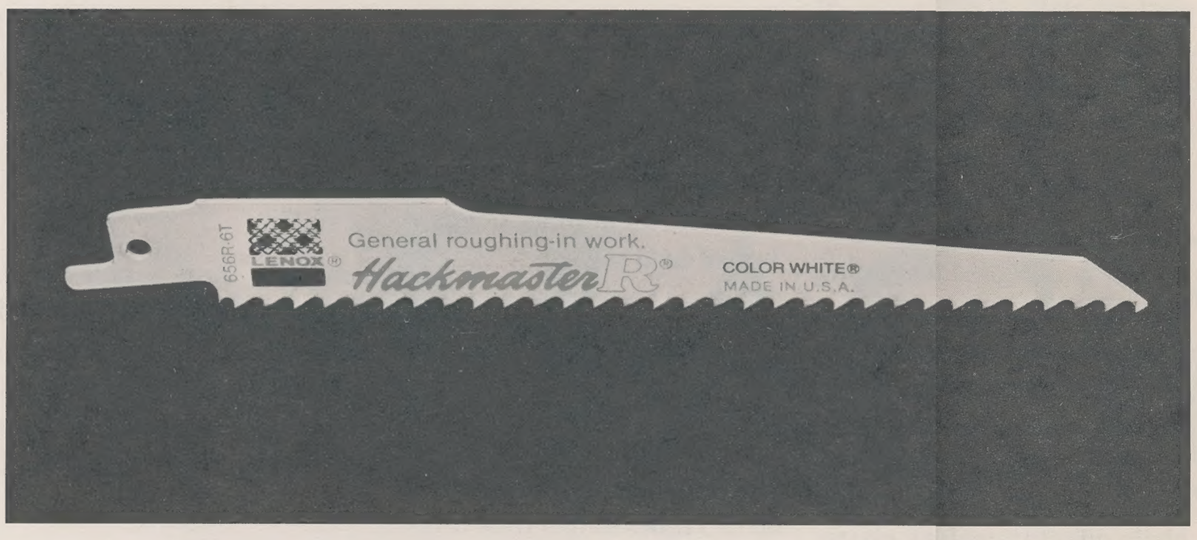
BELLEVUE, WA — When Lee Breton, AKA Hackman, arrived here at Cascade Construction Supply, the first person he saw was Susie Alexander wearing a T-shirt emblazened with "I love Hackman." Lee reacted with a big grin because his shirt read "Hackman".

The winning "Favorite Counterperson", Larry Kennedy has been with Cascade Construction Supply, a large supplier to construction companies in the Seattle area for several years.

According to Larry, "Lenox products are easy to sell. We like them especially because of their high quality. We don't have to waste time on callbacks because of broken blades. We're located in an industrial area so the bulk of our sales are made either by telephone or through our outside salespersons. Art Froembling comes in all the time, so we have gotten to be good friends. No, Art didn't ask me to help him figure how long it would take Hackman to cut through the boxcar. And I'm glad he didn't."

It didn't take Larry's wife, Joanne, long to start making plans for an early September vacation in Boston. She's already talked with the Massachusetts tourist bureau. And a pound or so brochures about Boston are probably in the mail at this minute. The Kennedy's sons, Philip, 12, and Danny, 11, may come along depending on when they decide to take the trip.

Pink for the Panther, White for Lenox®!



Color White® Becomes Trademark of American Saw.

Just as Owens/Corning had done with its Fiberglass Building Insulation, American Saw & Mfg. Company has done with its Lenox Saw Blades and Hand and Power Tool Accessories.

Effective September 8, 1987, the United States Patent Office has granted issuance of a trademark registration to American Saw for the use of the "color white" on its Lenox products. In addition, American Saw had previously received registration of the trade name Lenox White Tools®.

This announcement is sure to affect all other hand and power tool accessory manufacturers who now paint their products white. American Saw has been painting their products white for about a decade. We were able to provide and document the recognition by end users of the color white with American Saw's product.

American Saw prides itself on the quality of its products and would appreciate learning about any infringing imitations.

Hackman credits tough training, tough blades.

As anyone who knows Lee Breton will tell you, "Putting on that blue shirt turns him into Hackman, but it didn't change Lee a bit." He believes in training as tough as the blades he uses.

In August, Lee will have been with American Saw for 25 years. Any stranger meeting him for the first time would say that's impossible … he must have been 10 years old when he started making his first blades.

Lee's 43, but even before he became Hackman he kept his body up to highest Hackman standards. You see, Lee is a purist in everything he does. This attitude helps him to lead both his lives better, as Hackman, tearing into anything that is "hackable", and as Lee Breton, Foreman in the Hand Tool Department of American Saw. Lee is also the proud father of two children, Michael, 5, and Kelly, 3.

Body conditioning has several meanings to Lee. You'll find him down at Central City Gym in Springfield, MA, pumping iron four days a week. And you'll also see Lee waxing three cars during the average week. He takes vitamins to make his weight training build a better Hackman.

Lee's love of cars just brought his two identities together in a way that shows the kind of nice guy Hackman is. Somebody asked Lee if he could appear at the Second Annual Car Show in Springfield, MA, as Hackman. "You know when I put on the Hackman outfit I represent American Saw, wherever I do it. You know I want to help and especially because the show's going to benefit the Special Olympics, but I'll have to get the okay from American Saw."

He asked for an okay and one thing led to another. So, if you were in the area, you could have seen Hackman saw a car in half at the show. And for a $1.00 donation, you could have entered your best guess of how long it would take Hackman to cut a car apart. The winner was awarded a new toolbox packed with all kinds of Lenox products, donated by American Saw. All proceeds from the car cutting went to benefit the Special Olympics.

Hackman preaches what he practices

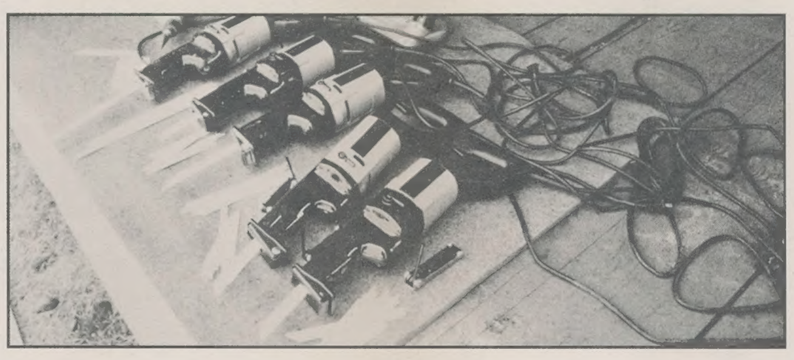
Just as Lee can hack it cutting cars, trucks, and trains apart, he is able to tell you why Lenox products are such super performers. He hasn't wasted 25 years at American Saw. Right from the beginning, in his first job at American Saw, welding band saw blades, Lee fed his curiosity about what it takes to make a superior blade. For example, all of the saw blades Hackman used to cut the boxcar were Hackmaster® reciprocating blades of bi-metal construction.

The reason a bi-metal blade gives shatterproof cutting under the tough conditions of a cut like the main beam of the boxcar is that its spring steel backing is welded to high-speed steel cutting edge material, giving it hard, tough teeth and a flexible body to resist breaking despite twisting. When Hackman is racing the clock, like any professional tradesman who knows time is money, he can't risk wasting time on broken blades. Lee's current responsibilities as a Foreman in the Hand Tool Department involve the heat treatment of bi-metal materials that go into the kinds of blades Hackman relies on.

How Hackman Began …

The idea sprang from the promotion of an automobile dealer and a radio station in Colorado, who offered a prize to anyone who could cut an automobile apart within a certain time limit using only a hand hacksaw. The winner did it with Lenox hacksaw blades. This inspired American Saw to seek out a sawperson. Lee Breton was chosen for the role of super hero for record cuts because he not only knows a lot about saws, he had already dedicated a great deal of time and effort to body building and understands the serious business of actually being Hackman. Moreover, the way he plays to the crowd even while he's undergoing severe physical labor marks Lee as a person that loves his work — as Hackman and Lee Breton.

Reporter from station WWLP interviews Hackman. Two television stations were on hand for the Boxcar Cutting.



Hackman had no doubts.

After the boxcar cutting, somebody asked Lee if he had any doubts about making it all the way. He answered, "No worry at all; I'd already cut the boxcar twice in my dreams." But to watch him cutting down the sides and across the floor inside the searing hot boxcar cast doubt on his success. Lee's assistant kept a fan on him during the contest and his body was kept doused with water. Despite all this, without Lee's careful conditioning, he could have lost his cool. Carol Breton, Lee's wife, was asked whether he was nervous about the cut. She answered, "I knew he could do it. Lee had a few restless nights dreaming about the cut, but last night he slept like a baby. I was the one who couldn't sleep."

Just after the cut, Lee said he was feeling just fine, except his fingers were a little numb from the saw's trigger. Then Lee shook hands with some of the kids, posed for photos and went over to a presentation of plaques in recognition of the victory of blade over boxcar.

Lenox® employees share the spotlight.

Hundreds of American Saw employees and their spouses and children came to Easthampton on July 11, to watch Lee make good on the challenge of a lifetime. They came to watch and get together to cheer Hackman on like never before.

American Saw employees had a drawing of their own that attracted 354 entries. The winning entry by Barry Little, Sr., Electron Weld Department, was for 1 hour 13 minutes 42 and 05/100 seconds, only 39:16/100 seconds off Lee's official time of 1 hour 14 minutes 21 and 21/100 seconds. Barry was presented his prize at American Saw, on July 13th. He won $200.

Everybody had fun just like at a family picnic. They not only cheered for the local hero, everybody rubbed elbows listening to the music, enjoyed the clown's antics, and consumed tons of hamburgers, hot dogs, and barrels of soda served up by Easthampton's finest, the policemen volunteers — all for the benefit of the Jimmy Fund.

Next challenge for Hackman? Rumors abound.

Is any large, difficult to saw object in America safe? Word's out that an activist group of staunch Hackmaster® supporters are on the prowl looking for new worlds for Hackman to conquer — or at least divide.

Authorities are especially alert to any suspicious activities in or around beached barges, retired fire engines or deserted houses. Although unofficially, an informed source reports certain historic relics are above approach — including the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, the White House and Fenway Park in Boston.

The ad hoc "Let's give Lee some new cutting challenge to lose sleep over" committee seems to be on the trail of a cut bigger and better and tougher than any mere 31-ton boxcar. For sure, it's not a plane or a train or a car or a truck. Say, the next cut is apt to get Hackman into outer space. Do you have an idea? Send in your suggestions to York Mayo care of American Saw & Mfg. Company.

Products on the move.

A Lenox® hole saw kit for every job

American Saw offers 10 different hole saw kits to meet the hole cutting needs of any professional tradesman:

Industrial Maintenance (30823-1900L) has 16 sizes for virtually every installation, maintenance or repair job – 3/4″, 7/8″, 1″, 1-1/8″, 1-3/8″, 1-1/2", 1-3/4", 2", 2-1/4", 2-1/2", 3", 3-1/4", 3-5/8", 3-3/4", 4-1/8", 4-3/4", plus 1L and 2L arbors and 3 spare pilot drills in a metal carrying case;

Super Electrician (30822-1400L) has 10 sizes for bringing pipe and conduit into junction boxes and through floors, ceilings, and partitions – 7/8", 1-1/8", 1-3/8", 1-3/4", 2", 2-1/2", 3", 3-5/8", 4-1/8", 4-3/4", 1L, 2L, 4L arbors and 3 spare pilot drills in a metal carrying case;

Refrigeration (30830-600R) has the six sizes preferred by refrigeration professionals – 5/8", 7/8", 1-1/8", 1-3/8" 1-5/8", 2-3/8", – plus 5L and 6L arbors, 1 spare pilot drill in a plastic case;

Deluxe (30820-1200L) provides 12 popular sizes – 5/8", 3/4", 7/8", 1", 1-1/8", 1-1/4", 1-3/8", 1-1/2", 1-3/4", 2", 2-1/2", 3" – 1L and 2L arbors, 3 spare pilot drills in a plastic case;

Electrician (30821-600L) has 6 most frequently used sizes for pipe and conduit entrance – 7/8", 1-1/8", 1-3/8", 1-3/4", 2", 2-1/2" – plus 1L and 2L arbors, one spare pilot drill in a plastic case;

Plumber (30808-600P) has the 6 sizes most commonly used for pipe tap and entrance – 3/4″, 7/8″, 1-1/8″, 1-1/2″, 1-3/4″, 2-1/4″—plus 2L and 4L arbors, one spare pilot drill, one arbor adaptor in a plastic case;

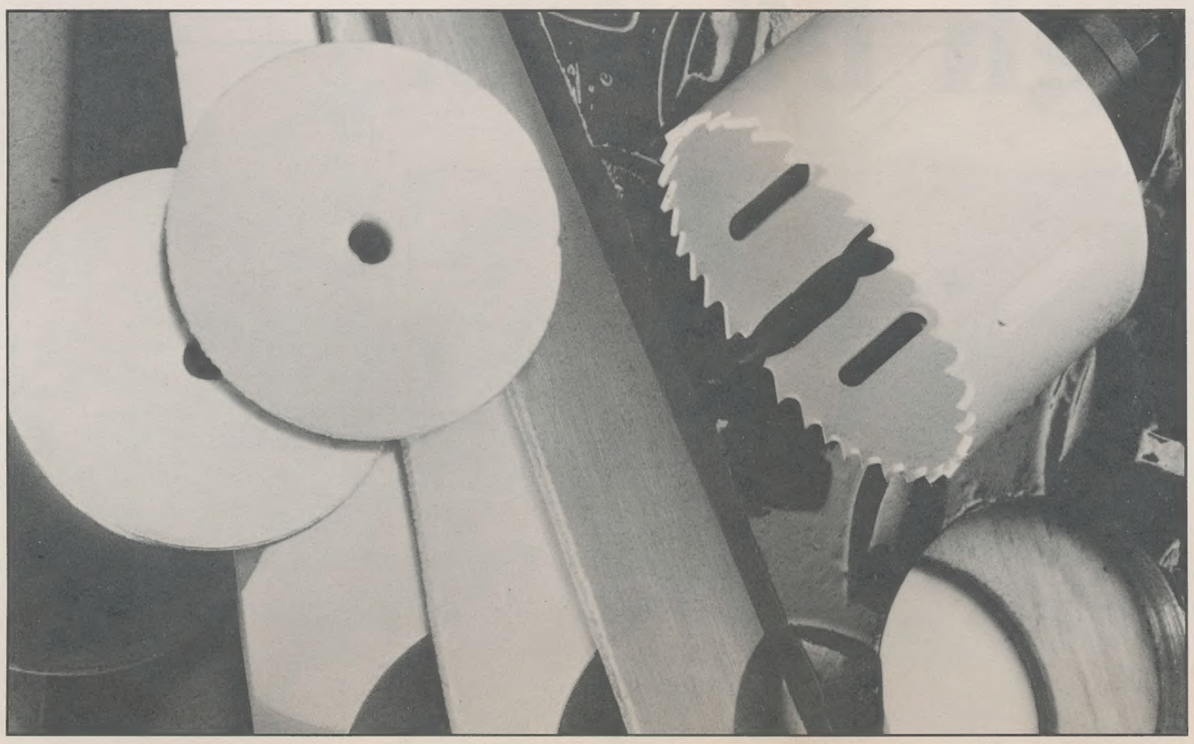
Locksmith (30831-600K) has 6 sizes locksmiths prefer – 7/8", 1", 1-1/4", 1-1/2", 1-3/4", 2-1/8" – plus 2L and 4L arbors, one spare pilot drill, one arbor adaptor in a plastic case. (This kit also available with 1-3/8″ instead of 1-1/2″ hole saw, as 30832-600KA);

Special Electrician (30828-400L) has 4 sizes used for large pipe and conduit entrance – 3", 3-5/8", 4-1/8", 4-3/4" – plus 2L arbor in a metal case;

Automotive (30805-500A) has 5 sizes for installation of air conditioner hoses, door locks, sunroofs, antennas, etc. — 3/4", 7/8", 1", 1-1/8", 1-1/4" – plus a 5L arbor, arbor adaptor in a plastic case.

Time-Saving PVC/ABS plastic pipe hand saws

Professional tradesmen looking to save time and cut PVC cleanly find the answer in 12" and 18" Lenox hand saws. Uniquely designed for cutting on both push and pull strokes, this saw cuts time for sawing PVC/ABS plastic pipe, paneling, dry wall, wood and other general purpose cutting. Its easy to attach flush cutting blade adaptor enables plastic pipe, two-by-fours, etc. to be cut flush with floors and walls. Stays sharp longer because teeth are milled. Includes rugged aluminum handle and tempered carbon steel 12" or 18" replaceable blade.



Hole saw technology takes a positive step forward.

The best just got better! Always looking to improve the performance of its products, American Saw has successfully introduced the positive rake tooth to its standard line of hole saws.

Users can now expect faster hole cutting with the same long hole saw life as before – up to 3 times longer than competitive hole saws.

The angling of each hole saw tooth forward using a special manufacturing process allows better tooth penetration and easier chip formation.

Despite this new advanced design, American Saw will maintain its current pricing for these new hole saws.

American Saw's hole saws feature shatterproof bi-metal construction to cut through stainless steel and other metals, as well as pipe, nail-embedded wood, hardwood floors, plywood and plastics.

Despite cutting through tooth-dulling abrasive materials, American Saw's hole saws, with electron-beam welded high-speed steel cutting edges, stay sharp up to 3 times longer and resist heat buildup.

Lenox® catalog ready for Wholesalers and Tradesmen.

A brand new full color catalog containing American Saw's full line of Lenox saw blades and hand tool products is ready for use by wholesalers and contractors. It provides complete descriptions of every tool in the line and includes typical application and use tips. Its charts and graphs make the selection of the proper blade for any contractor cutting requirement both quick and easy. It puts everything you need to know at your fingertips. Lenox White Tools® in this new catalog include hacksaw blades; reciprocating saw blades; jig and saber saw blades; hole saws, kits and accessories; and PVC/ABS blades and handles. Also included are hacksaw frames and handles; wood boring bits; files; D-I-Y blades; Vari-Bit® drill bits and kits as well as band saw blades for portable band saw machines.

Event profits to benefit charity.

Proceeds from every hamburger, hot dog, and soda enjoyed at the Lenox Boxcar Cutting on Saturday, July 11, 1987, was contributed to the Jimmy Fund, to benefit the some 5,000 patients — adults and children — visiting the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and its Jimmy Fund Clinic during the average year. Along with the proceeds, American Saw made a generous contribution to the Fund.

The idea of turning the Lenox Boxcar Cutting into a benefit for the Jimmy Fund was inspired by Easthampton Chief of Police Robert Redfern, member of the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, who was involved during the early planning stages. "Certainly, we'll all pitch in and help, and in return for the volunteer efforts of policemen of Easthampton, all proceeds from the Lenox Boxcar Cutting go to Jimmy." They handled all of the food preparation and vending, provided security and parking assistance. A job well done — even in the heat of the 105° F effective temperature of July 11.

"Jimmy" is 40 years old this year.

Hackman and the Lenox Boxcar Cutting are in good company, joining literally thousands of golf tournaments, softball games, walkathons, bikeathons, luncheons, dinners, Christmas card sales, yard and garage sales, auctions, musical and dramatic events, all sponsored under volunteer auspices for the benefit of the Jimmy Fund. Since 1947, millions of dollars have been given in "Jimmy's" name to support research into the causes and prevention of cancer and make available the most effective treatment for children afflicted with this disease. In 1986, alone, nearly $4 million was raised by the Jimmy Fund for cancer research programs and the care of children at the institute. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute conducts programs in basic and clinical cancer research, provides comprehensive treatment for adults and children with cancer; initiates training and education for future cancer specialists; and provides community outreach services in cancer control, detection and prevention throughout the northern New England region.

It all began in 1947, when the Variety Club of New England – a group of leaders in the motion picture and theatrical industry – was impressed by the work being conducted in children's cancer research under the leadership of the late Dr. Sidney Farber. Internationally known as the Father of Modern Chemotherapy, Dr. Farber was the first to achieve remissions in children with leukemia by use of chemotherapy. When they learned that this work was seriously hampered by inadequate space and the need for funds, the Variety Club resolved to establish the world's first Children's Cancer Research Foundation.

They were joined by the Boston Red Sox baseball organization, and then both show

people and ball players within months began raising funds to help support the Foundation. The name came about in an appeal on a radio program on behalf of a twelve-year-old cancer patient who was called "Jimmy" to preserve his anonymity. Today, "Jimmy" stands for any boy or girl stricken with cancer. And the Jimmy Fund is a household word in New England, synonymous to many with one of New England's most prominent citizens and the builder of one of the most famous cancer research facilities in the world, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

In the United States, today, the attack on cancer is led by a network of 20 federally-designated comprehensive cancer centers. The Dana-Farber Institute is a charter member of this group and the only major institution in New England focusing all of its resources on cancer research and treatment.

Here in America, where one out of every three people will get cancer, at least 50% of all cancer patients can be cured. And many types of cancer have even higher cure rates - over 80% of certain childhood leukemias, adult testicular cancer and Hodgkin's disease patients, for example, can be cured.

The battle against cancer, they say, is half won. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute receives vital support from throughout New England and the nation in contributions and bequests to both the Institute and its Jimmy Fund. American Saw is proud to support such an organization.

Other news from Lenox®.

American Saw & Mfg. Company is proud to announce the following additions/promotions:

Steve Hertz is now Regional Manager for the Mid-West area. Steve has been with American Saw since 1984, and for the past year has served as Acting Regional Manager for certain areas of the Mid-West. His new position will bring additional territory sales responsibilities. Steve will continue to train new sales agent personnel, as well as represent American Saw at national and regional trade shows.

Tim Barry has joined the Wholesale Trades Division as Regional Manager. His territory includes the Western Region plus New York State and Northern New Jersey. Tim comes from American Saw's Industrial Division, and has been with the Company for 9 years. Tim also is available at national and regional trade shows for your sales needs.

Joan Trombly has joined American Saw as secretary for the entire Wholesale Trades Department. She is responsible for written communications between the sales reps and the sales office, as well as interdepartmental communications. Joan is additionally responsible for coding new accounts, setting up new agents, updating agreement letters, and account information.